

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, a complete listing of all claims in the application, and their status, is set forth below. The text of each pending claim is also provided. Please amend the pending claims as follows, wherein added matter is underlined and deleted matter is ~~stricken through~~ or [[double bracketed]] in the text of the currently amended claims, relative to the immediate prior version. The claims in this listing are deemed to replace all prior claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An evidence collection device comprising a housing having a closable lid, the lid being securable to the housing to close the housing, the housing and the lid together defining a closed volume when the lid is secured to the housing, at least part of the housing being defined by a strainer member having a plurality of openings formed therein and adapted to allow water entering the housing to escape therefrom through the strainer member, but to collect, and retain within the housing, particulate matter carried by the water so that, upon securing the lid in position, the particulate matter is trapped within the closed volume, the housing being adapted to be removably received within and seal an outlet of at least one of a bath, shower, a wash basin and mortuary table so as, in use, to collect particulate matter from the water draining from the said at least one of a bath, shower, wash basin and mortuary table, contain the particulate matter and be adapted for transport to a remote location.

2. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the openings of the strainer member are sufficiently small to ensure that human cells are retained within the housing.

3. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the openings of the strainer member are of a uniform size.

4. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the openings are of a non-uniform size.

5. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the openings in a central part of the strainer member are of smaller dimensions than those located towards the edges of the strainer member, whereby water passing through screen member forms a vortex flow which separates matter carried with the water so that relatively large particulate matter moves radially outward and smaller matter occupies a central position on the screen member without significantly impairing ~~impairing~~ flow rate.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A devices as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the lid of the housing is securable in position on the remainder of the housing by screw threads.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the liner is closable.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of collecting evidence comprising removably locating an evidence collection device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims within the outlet of a bath,

shower or wash basin, allowing the individual from whom evidence is to be collected to bath, shower or wash, allowing water to escape from the bath, shower or basin, the water entering the housing and passing through the strainer member, particulate matter being carried with the water into an open top of the housing and being unable to pass through the strainer member and the particulate matter being retained within the housing, and closing the lid over the open top to trap the collected matter within the closed volume of the housing, and removing the evidence collection device from the outlet, and transporting the retained particulate matter to a remote location for analysis.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising a step of wiping the bath, shower or basin using a cloth or wipe of known DNA content to collect any matter adhering thereto.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) An evidence collection device comprising a flexible liner and a housing having a closable lid, the lid being securable to the housing to close the housing, the housing and the lid together defining a closed volume when the lid is secured to the housing, at least part of the housing being defined by a strainer member having a plurality of openings formed therein and adapted to allow water entering the housing to escape therefrom through the strainer member but to collect and retain within the housing particulate matter carried by the water, so that, upon securing the lid in position, the particular matter is trapped with the closed volume, the housing being located in an outlet of the liner.

14. (Currently Amended) An evidence collection device for use in connection with drain outlet of a bath, shower, or wash basin, comprising:

a. a generally cylindrical, tubular housing having an unobstructed open upper end, an open bottom end and a predetermined central volume, the housing being constructed of a rubber or synthetic rubber-like material and being dimensioned such that, when removably received with the drain outlet the housing forms a substantially fluid tight seal with the outlet;

b. a closable lid, the lid being securable to the upper end of the housing to close the housing, the housing and the lid together defining a closed central volume when the lid is secured to the housing, the lid being securable via screw threading between the lid and the housing; and

c. a strainer member connected to the bottom end of the housing, the strainer member defining a bottom end of the central volume, the strainer member having a plurality of openings formed therein in a central part of the strainer member of a sufficiently small size to capture human cells, and a plurality of openings of a larger size formed toward the outward edge of the strainer member, the strainer member adapted to allow water entering the housing to escape therefrom through the strainer member, but to collect, and retain within the housing central volume, particulate matter carried by the water passing through the screen member by a vortex flow which separates matter carried with the water so that relatively large particulate matter moves radially outward and smaller matter occupies the central position on the screen member without significantly ~~impairing~~ improving water flow rate, whereby upon securing the lid in position, the particulate matter is trapped within the closed volume, the housing having predetermined dimensions whereby it is adapted to be received within and seal an outlet of at least one of a bath, shower, a wash basin and mortuary table, so as, in use, the device is adapted to collect particulate matter from water draining from a bath, shower, or wash basin, to contain the particulate matter, and to transport the matter to a remote location.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of collecting evidence, comprising the steps of:

- a. providing an evidence collection device, comprising:
 - i. a generally cylindrical, tubular housing having an unobstructed open upper end, an open bottom end, and a predetermined central volume, the housing being constructed of a rubber or synthetic rubber-like material and being dimensioned such that, when removably received with the drain outlet the housing forms a substantially fluid tight seal with the outlet;
 - ii. a closable lid, the lid being securable to the upper end of the housing to close the housing, the housing and the lid together defining a closed central volume when the lid is secured to the housing, the lid being securable to the housing; and
 - iii. a strainer member connected to the bottom end of the housing, the strainer member defining a bottom end of the central volume, the strainer member having a plurality of openings formed therein in a central part of the strainer member of a sufficiently small size to capture human cells;
- b. locating the evidence collection device, with its lid in a closed position, within the outlet of a bath, shower or wash basin;
- c. allowing the individual from whom evidence is to be collected to bath, shower or wash in the bath, shower or basin;
- d. opening the lid on the evidence collection device;
- e. allowing water to escape from the bath, shower or basin, the water entering the evidence collection device housing and passing through the strainer member, particulate matter carried into the housing being unable to pass through the strainer member and being retained within the housing;
- f. securing the lid to trap the collected matter within the closed volume of the housing;
- g. removing the evidence collection device from the outlet; and

- h. later analyzing the collected matter contained in the closed volume for evidence.